

L. Henry

**THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF MARKET RASEN**



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

R. J. R. MECREDY, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

and of the

**PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
AND SURVEYOR**

ARTHUR E. SWEETING

Part-time Public Health Inspector :

C. KING

for the Year

1957

Public Health and General Purposes Committee—

Councillor B. ATKIN (Chairman), with all the
Members of the Council.

Medical Officer of Health—

R. J. R. MECREDY, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector—

ARTHUR E. SWEETING

Part-time Additional Public Health Inspector—

C. KING

To the Chairman and Members of the MARKET RASEN URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Nettleship and Gentlemen,

During the year 1957 the most noteworthy occurrences were a severe epidemic of measles in the early part of the year followed in the late autumn by a major outbreak of influenza.

Vaccination of children against both poliomyelitis and tuberculosis increased in volume and should do much to lessen the incidence of the diseases in the future.

Progress continues to be made in the installation of W.C's. It is regrettable that there are still 253 premises without an indoor supply of water. In other respects the hygienic state of the town remains fairly good and it will be noted that no case of overcrowding of houses was reported during the year.

Mr. King continues to do useful work in meat inspection on two days a week.

The valuable work carried out by your Public Health Inspector—Mr. Sweeting—is elaborated in his report which is attached.

I wish to thank the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and the members for their interest and help in the carrying out of my duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

R. J. R. MECREDY,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL AND GENERAL STATISTICS

Land	.....	972 acres
Water	.....	4 acres
Population (Census 1921)	.....	2178
Population (Census 1931)	.....	2048
Population (Census 1951)	.....	2138
Population (Estimated 1957)	.....	2170
Habitable Houses (Census 1931)	.....	611
Habitable Houses (Estimated 1957)	.....	795

The rateable value of the Urban District on the 1st April, 1957 was £20,376 and the product of the penny rate was £89 : 0 : 8d. for the year ending 31st March, 1957.

With the relatively stable state of the population the housing position continues to be satisfactory.

VITAL STATISTICS

These reveal much the same aspect as those of the last two years with deaths and births almost equal. Again the application of the comparability factors to the actual figures indicate a moderately high birth rate and a low death rate.

Over half the deaths recorded were again from diseases of the heart and circulatory system.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics for the Year 1957 :

Total live births	.....	34	
Illegitimate births	.....	Nil	
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated			
resident population (Corrected)	17.9	For England and Wales	16.1
Total deaths	.....	32	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated			
resident population (Corrected)	10.03	For England and Wales	11.5
Deaths of infants under one year	Nil		
Deaths from puerperal causes.....	Nil		
Stillbirths	.....	2	
Deaths from malignant neoplasms	.....	3	
Deaths from disease of the heart and			
circulatory system	.....	18	

Heart disease and disease of the circulatory system show no significant increase over previous years and the deaths from malignant disease remain stationery.

There was one fatality from cancer of the lung.

CAUSES OF DEATH

			Males	Female
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	.....	.....	1	Nil
2. Tuberculosis other forms	.....	.....	Nil	Nil
3. Syphilitic disease	.....	.....	Nil	Nil
4. Diphtheria	.....	.....	Nil	Nil
5. Whooping Cough	.....	.....	Nil	Nil
6. Meningococcal infections	.....	.....	Nil	Nil
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	.....	.....	Nil	Nil
8. Measles	.....	.....	Nil	Nil
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	.....	.....	Nil	Nil

		Males	Female
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	—	1
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung bronchus	Nil	1
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	—
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	Nil
14.	Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	—	1
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	Nil	Nil
16.	Diabetes	Nil	1
17.	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	1	4
18.	Coronary disease, Angina	5	2
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	Nil	Nil
20.	Other heart disease	1	4
21.	Other circulatory disease	2	1
22.	Influenza	1	Nil
23.	Pneumonia	1	1
24.	Bronchitis	1	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	Nil	Nil
26.	Ulcers of the stomach and duodenum	Nil	Nil
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	Nil	Nil
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	Nil	Nil
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	Nil	—
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	Nil
		Males	Females
31.	Congenital malformations	Nil	Nil
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	1
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	Nil	Nil
34.	All other accidents	Nil	Nil
35.	Suicide	Nil	Nil
36.	Homicide and operations of War	Nil	Nil
		—	—
	Totals	14	18
		—	—

Notifiable Diseases

An epidemic of measles which had shown signs of commencing in December 1956, increased in severity through February and March and reached its peak in April when 50 cases were notified. The epidemic ended in May.

The total number of cases reported through the year was 138. So far as I know no such extensive epidemic had occurred previously. Fortunately the disease was relatively mild and no cases had to be removed to hospital for any reason. At the same time as the epidemic was reaching its zenith in Market Rasen, the neighbouring parishes in the Caistor Rural District were also heavily affected. Indeed the great majority of all cases recorded occurred within a radius of seven miles from Market Rasen.

There were seven cases of whooping cough notified and five of these occurred in May and June. There was a simultaneous outbreak of this disease in the neighbouring parishes also.

Apart from these two infectious diseases only one case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified.

The total number of cases notified during the year was therefore 146.

None of the other more serious infectious diseases were notified throughout the year.

Influenza

There was a major epidemic of this disease during October to November. School children appeared to be most susceptible and approximately 75% of the boys and girls attending the schools in the Urdan District were absent for varying periods with this complaint. So far as is known there were no definite cases of pneumonic influenza.

Immunisation

It was found that 84.3% of the 370 boys and girls examined in Market Rasen schools had been immunised against diphtheria. (Of course many of these come from outside the town).

During the year 30 children were immunised for the first time and 22 received a "booster" dose against this disease. These numbers show a decrease on last year's figures.

20 children were immunised against whooping cough.

Smallpox remains the Cinderella of the preventive campaign. Only 18 children were vaccinated. Revaccination was done in one case.

During the year the vaccination of children against poliomyelitis was continued at an increasing pace and a considerable number of children in Market Rasen have now had their two injections.

Vaccination against tuberculosis was also initiated towards the end of the year and in time this should be a valuable measure in further curtailing this disease.

Health and Welfare of Schoolchildren.

There was a drop to 135 of the children attending the School Clinic in Market Rasen.

The actual minor complaints treated remained much as before.

No cases of impetigo or scabies were seen in the children who attended.

The general health of the children remains at a reasonably satisfactory level.

Dental caries remains one of the most pressing problems. In the 370 children seen in the local schools only 8.6% had perfect sets of teeth while the number of teeth per head which required or had had treatment was 4.2%.

The number of older children who resort to a "snack lunch" remains considerable and it is regrettable that more do not avail themselves of the dinner at the canteen.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. Mental Illness

Treatment is arranged in conjunction with the Regional Hospital Board. Supervision and after care is carried out by specially trained workers employed by the County Council.

Mental Defectives.

The County Council through the Regional Hospital Board makes arrangements for the institutional care of mental defectives.

The County Council remains responsible for the care and supervision of mentally defectives in their own homes. This work is carried out by the Health Visitors.

2. Laboratory Facilities

These are provided at the Public Health Laboratory, 8 St. Anne's Road, Lincoln, and at Grimsby and District Hospital. Diphtheria Anti-toxin, Antityphoid Serum and Scarlet Fever Streptotoccus Anti-toxin can be supplied from the above Laboratories.

3. Ambulance Facilities, Under National Fire Service

An ambulance can be obtained either through the patient's Doctor or Nurse, or in the event of emergency by asking the Telephone Operator for the Ambulance Station.

SUMMARY (for reference) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

Nursing in the Home

All District Nurses now come under the authority of the Lindsey County Council.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Treatment and after care of tubercular cases now come under the Regional Hospital Board. Nearest clinic is at Lincoln. School Clinics remain under the charge of the Lindsey County Council.

School Clinic Market Rasen

Every Tuesday, 10 a.m.—12 a.m.

Orthopaedic Clinic

2 p.m. every fourth Tuesday in month.

Dental Clinic.

At Market Rasen for mothers and children.

Midwifery and Maternity Services

Administered by the Lindsey County Council.

Health Visitors

The duties of the above are performed through the Lindsey County Council.

HOUSING

The number of council houses and bungalows remains at 112. One privately owned house was erected during the year.

Three houses were demolished during this period. Repairs and improvements to buildings continue to be made as shown in the Public Health Inspector's report.

There are many very old and borderline properties still present in the township.

The replacement of these will have to be faced in a not far distant future.

There is however, now, no actual overcrowding. Indeed the average number of occupants per houses is now under three.

WATER SUPPLIES

The number of houses now provided with indoor water supplies has risen to 542 while 253 are still relying on outdoor taps. At this rate it will take over 30 years for every dwelling to have an indoor water supply.

Water pressure remained at a satisfactory level. Bacteriological tests taken throughout the year were all satisfactory and a sample of water taken for chemical analysis of purity showed a high standard.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

The Sample of Water (marked as under) Received from Mr. Dixon, Water Engineer, Caistor Rural District Council, Caistor, Lincs.

On the 9th August, 1957.

Has been examined with the following results :—

	Tealby Springs parts per million.
Total Solids	400.0
Free Ammonia as N	0.004
Albumenoid Ammonia as N	0.003
Nitrates as N	3.2
Nitrites as N	Nil
Chlorides as Cl	21.0
Alkalinity expressed as CaCO_3	247.5
Oxygen absorbed from N/80 Permanganate in 4 hours	0.114
Calcium as CaO	163.8
Magnesium as MgO	4.8
Carbonates as CO_2	108.9
Sulphates as SO_3	45.3
Possible Combination of Salts in Solution.	
Calcium Sulphate	77.0
Calcium Carbonate	236.0
Magnesium Carbonate	10.0
Sodium Chloride	34.6

This water is of excellent quality chemically.

J. R. HUNECKE, B.Sc.(Hons.) A.R.I.C.,

Consulting Analyst.

SANITATION AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

16 conversions were made during the year to W.C's. This again shows satisfactory progress and your inspector again deserves to be congratulated on this progress.

79 premises still require night soil collection from pail privies while there are 33 vault privies. Progress towards the complete water carriage of all sewage is still very slow.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the Year 1957 relating to the public health work of the department.

During the year steady progress was made in the field of sanitation but there remains much yet to be done.

The ready co-operation of the butchers, builders, shopkeepers and others with whom I have to work has proved most valuable and made the work much easier all round.

My thanks are again due to the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Clerk, Medical Officer of Health and Mr. King for the help given during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR E. SWEETING,

Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

As will be seen elsewhere in this report three houses were demolished during the year and the sites cleared.

In 1955 I reported that eleven houses in the area were in such a bad state that it would not be reasonable to require the owners to repair, recondition or improve them. Of this number eight have been demolished two closed and one renovated and made habitable.

Maintenance repair work has been carried out at a good number of properties but there are many yet needing attention.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

With the aid of grants four houses were improved during the year, the work consisting mainly of the provision of bathrooms, hot water supplies and drainage.

Whilst the number done is greater than in the previous year it is disappointing that so few people are taking advantage of this help to improve their properties.

However, everything possible will be done by this department to encourage owners of properties needing improvements to take advantage of the scheme.

FOOD PREPARING AND MAKING UP PLACES

Except for one or two very minor infringements the businesses have been conducted in a very satisfactory manner.

The response to our requests for improvements to buildings and equipment has been excellent and the standard in the district must be considered very good.

MEAT AND FOODS

The work of meat inspection, which is increasing year by year, was given particular attention and despite the increase in the number it was again possible to inspect every animal slaughtered.

Compared with the number slaughtered it will be seen only a small amount was condemned as being unfit for human food.

This, I think, emphasises the excellent quality of the animals used for human food.

PRIVY CONVERSIONS

The number of privies converted to water closets during 1957 was sixteen.

Whilst the number of conversions carried out in the past two or three years has been greater than in previous years progress is not as rapid as I would like to see it.

Every effort will be made to encourage more owners to take advantage of the grants offered by the Council for this class of improvement.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The collectors carried out their work satisfactorily during the year and no complaints of a serious nature were received.

With regard to refuse disposal this is carried out on two sites. As you know Mr. Wilson of Linwood Road offered us the use of a pit at the rear of his farm and a large quantity of refuse has been tipped there. Until the approach to the pit is made up, tipping on this site can be carried out only during the summer months, while during the winter land at the Sewage Works is used.

This arrangement works quite satisfactorily and all steps are taken to keep the sites tidy and free of vermin.

The trade refuse collection scheme continues to prove most helpful to the traders of the town.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

Many premises, both private dwellings and business properties were surveyed during the year but no really serious infestations were discovered.

In the four instances where rats were found the Joint Rodent Operator cleared these satisfactorily.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Except for one or two minor jobs to the sewers no real difficulties arose during the year.

The pumps and other apparatus have worked satisfactorily and been well maintained.

Sanding and flushing of the sewers at both Market Rasen and Middle Rasen was carried out each month and I consider this regular attention has helped to keep us free from trouble.

STATISTICS

Housing

Total number of new houses erected during the year	.....	.....	1
Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954-57			
Number of certificates of disrepair issued	.....	.....	Nil
Inspection of dwellings houses during the year			
Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	.....	.....	97
Number of inspections made for the purpose	.....	.....	105
Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices			
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	.....	.....	56
Action under Statutory Powers during the year			

Proceedings under Public Health Acts

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	.....	.....	Nil
Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	.....	.....	Nil

Proceedings under the Housing Acts

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
---	-------	-------	-----

Slum Clearance proceedings under the Housing Acts

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	.....	.....	3
Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	.....	.....	3
Number of dwelling-houses or parts, subject to Closing Orders			Nil
Number of dwelling-houses or parts, rendered fit by undertakings			Nil
Number of dwelling-houses included in confirmed Clearance Orders	.....	.....	Nil

Housing Act—Overcrowding

Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	.....	Nil
Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year		None known

Housing Act, 1949

Number of houses for which applications for grants have been received (1957)	.....	.....	4
Number of houses subject to grant (1957)	.....	.....	4

Moveable dwellings, tents, vans, etc.

Number of site licences	.....	.....	Nil
Number of individual licences	.....	.....	4
Total number of caravans permitted under licences	.....	.....	5
Number of inspections during the year	.....	.....	12

Food Premises

Bakehouses

Number in district	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Number of inspections	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Number of contraventions	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Defects remedied	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

Milk Supplies

No. of distributors on register							
Sterilised	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Pasteurised	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Tuberculin Tested	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

Ice Cream

Number of manufacturers on register	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Number of premises licensed for sale of ice cream	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
Number of inspections of premises made	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	42
Number of contraventions found	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil

Meat Products

Number of premises registered for manufacture of meat products	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Number of inspections made	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	154
Number of contraventions found	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Number of contraventions remedied	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

Other Food premises

Number of inspections	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	198
Number of contraventions found	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Number of contraventions remedied	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5

Slaughterhouses

Number licensed	5
-----------------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	---

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned
in whole or in part :

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & lambs	Pigs
Number killed	516	—	—	1544	1346
Number inspected	516	—	—	1544	1346
All diseases except Tuber- culosis and Cystericerci					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	6	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	14	—	—	6	15

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & lambs	Pigs
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	2.7%	—	—	.77%	1.56 %
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	5	—	—	—	22
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis .....	.97%	—	—	—	1.63 %

Other food condemned

Meats 2 containers
Vegetables 26 containers Damaged and blown containers.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT 1937-48

No. on register .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25
No. of inspections made .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	42
No. of defects found .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
No. of defects remedied .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2

J. H. EYRE, PRINTER, MARKET RASEN